



News Release

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Scott Sadlon, BRTRC/DoD Biometrics

Phone: (703) 253-0944

E-Mail: ssadlon@brtrc.com

DoD Biometrics Sponsors INCITS M1 Meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 4, 2004 – Department of Defense Biometrics and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are co-sponsoring the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) M1 Technical Committee (TC) Meeting from October 4-8 in Bethesda, Maryland. INCITS M1 is the primary U.S. standards committee responsible for the development of standards for biometric applications. The INCITS M1 TC is comprised of a number of U.S. Government organizations – including the Department of Homeland Security, Department of State, Department of Justice, and the National Security Agency – as well as industry, academia, and non-profit biometric stakeholder organizations.

“Standards ensure that biometric technologies allow the Department of Defense and other U.S. Government organizations to collect, transmit, store, and use biometric data in an interoperable way,” said John D. Woodward, Jr., Director, DoD Biometrics Management Office. “The BMO demonstrates its significant role in, and commitment to, biometric standards development by providing editors and technical contributions to multiple INCITS M1 projects.”

In November 2001, the Executive Board of INCITS established technical committee M1 to ensure a high priority, focused, and comprehensive approach for the rapid development of formal national and international biometric standards. INCITS M1’s current program of work includes biometric data interchange formats, biometric application programming interfaces, and conformance testing standards. INCITS M1’s goal is to accelerate the deployment of significantly better, standards-based security solutions for homeland



security, identity theft and other government and commercial applications based on biometric personal authentication.

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The Department of Defense (DoD) Biometrics Management Office (BMO) is responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and use of biometric technologies for the Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies, to support the warfighter and enhance Joint Service interoperability. The Biometrics Fusion Center (BFC) is the test and evaluation unit of the BMO. The BMO reports to the Army Chief Information Officer (CIO/G-6) who acts on behalf of the DoD Executive Agent for Biometrics, the Secretary of the Army. The recently formed Identity Protection and Management Senior Coordinating Group provides senior-level, DoD-wide strategic guidance to the BMO, given its mission to oversee efforts in the areas of Biometrics, Public Key Infrastructure, and Smart Cards.